

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
FORM PTO-1390 (REV 12-29-99)		DB/604
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 107009977
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR00/01682	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE June 16, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED June 17, 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION HANDHELD ELECTRIC BEATER/MIXER HAVING A SAFETY DEVICE		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Jean-Yves BEAUDET and Marc MARRIERE		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. (see PCT/IB/308). c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). 		
Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: 		
<p>International Preliminary Examination Report.</p> <p>Application Data Sheet.</p> <p>Form PCT/IB/308.</p> <p>Search Report.</p> <p>Abstract.</p>		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR00/01682	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER DB/604		
10/009977		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY		
<p>17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:</p> <p>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</p> <p>Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1,040.</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO 890.</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO 740.</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) 710.</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) 100.</p> <p>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$ 890</p>				
<p>Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).</p>		\$ 130		
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$
Total claims	7 - 20 =	0	x \$ 18.	\$ 0
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x 84.	\$ 0
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ 280.	\$
			TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =	\$ 1020
Reduction of 1/2 for small entity				\$
			SUBTOTAL =	\$ 1020
<p>Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).</p>				\$
			TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =	\$ 1020
<p>Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +</p>				\$
			TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =	\$ 1020
			Amount to be refunded:	\$
			charged:	\$
<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ 1020 to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p>				
<p>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</p>				
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:		<p>December 17, 2001</p> <p><i>Benoit Castel</i></p> <p>SIGNATURE</p> <p>Benoit Castel</p> <p>NAME</p> <p>35,041</p> <p>REGISTRATION NUMBER</p>		
<p>Young & Thompson 745 South 23rd Street 2nd Floor Arlington, VA 22202 (703) 521-2297</p>		<p>CUSTOMER NO. 000466</p>		

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Jean-Yves BEAUDET et al.

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

HANDHELD ELECTRIC BEATER/MIXER
HAVING A SAFETY DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 5 as follows:

--5. (amended) Beater-mixer according to claim 2, characterized in that the mechanical member (57) is urged by resilient return means (72) which tend to return it to the beating position.--

Add the following new claims:

--6. (new) Beater-mixer according to claim 3, characterized in that the mechanical member (57) is urged by resilient return means (72) which tend to return it to the beating position.

--7. (new) Beater-mixer according to claim 4, characterized in that the mechanical member (57) is urged by

Jean-Yves BEAUDET et al.

resilient return means (72) which tend to return it to the beating position.--

R E M A R K S

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By

Benoît Castel

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December 17, 2001

ABSTRACT

Handheld electric beater-mixer includes a body (2) containing an electric drive motor (6), two rotary coupling devices (20, 33) which are connected to the shaft (8) of the motor and which are adapted to receive, via respectively two engagement passages (26, 43) opening from the body (2), a whisk (10) and, respectively, a mixer foot (45), and a safety device (55) adapted to prevent the simultaneous emplacement of the whisk and of the mixer foot. The safety device (55) includes a movable mechanical member (57) adapted to block selectively one or the other of the two passages (26, 43) for engagement of the whisk (10) and of the mixer foot (45).

HANDHELD ELECTRIC BEATER/MIXER HAVING A SAFETY DEVICE

The present invention relates to a handheld electric beater-mixer, particularly a kitchen beater-mixer, adapted to drive at least one so-called beating accessory such as 5 for example a whisk or a so-called mixing accessory turning at high speed, such as for example a mixer foot, and comprising a body containing an electric drive motor, two rotatable coupling devices which are connected to the motor shaft and which are adapted to receive, via respectively 10 two engagement passages opening from the body, the beating accessory and respectively the mixing accessory, and a safety device adapted to prevent the simultaneous emplacement of two accessories, respectively for beating and for mixing.

15 There is meant by beating accessory a working tool of the whisk or blender type, and by mixing accessory an accessory with a working tool turning at high speed of the rotatable helical mixer foot type, or else of the mixer bowl type with a rotating knife.

20 With such a kitchen appliance, it is known that the presence of a safety device preventing the concomitant emplacement of the two accessories, respectively for beating and mixing, is particularly useful to protect the user from any risk of wounding which would be due to the

two working tools in movement simultaneously if the apparatus were started with the two accessories in place.

In a known kitchen device of this type, the safety device which prevents the simultaneous emplacement of the 5 two accessories, respectively for beating and for mixing, comprises a strap slidably horizontally mounted in the body of the apparatus, of which one end is shaped as a hooked tongue arranged in the engagement passage for the mixing accessory, and whose other end is shaped as a fork with 10 several teeth, which fork is associated with an ejection member displaceable vertically between a low position and a high position under the action of the beating accessory. The fork of the strip is adapted to free the movement of the ejector member so as to permit the emplacement of the 15 beating accessory, the hooking tongue of the strip closing the engagement passage for the mixing accessory; following disengagement of the hooking tongue of the strip under the action of the mixing accessory during its emplacement, the fork of the strip is adapted to block, by one of its teeth, 20 the ejection member in the lower position, thereby preventing the emplacement of the beating accessory. Such a safety device is however complicated and is relatively complicated to use by being subject to the good operation of the ejection member mounted in the apparatus.

The invention has particularly for its object to overcome these drawbacks and to provide a handheld electric beater-mixer, of the type described above, in which the safety device will be simple, economical, reliable and 5 perfectly adapted to mass production.

According to the invention, the safety device comprises a mechanical member movable so as to block selectively one or the other of the two engagement passages for the beating accessory and for the mixing accessory.

10 Thus, thanks to this selective blocking member acting directly on the two engagement passages, respectively for the beating accessory and for the mixing accessory, it will be understood that the use of the piece is thereafter rendered independent of any movable member belonging to the 15 apparatus, which permits simplifying the safety device by rendering it particularly reliable.

The characteristics and advantages of the invention will become further apparent from the description which follows, given by way of non-limiting example, with 20 reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

- Figure 1 is a fragmentary vertical cross-sectional view of a beater-mixer according to the invention, in the stopped position and in the absence of an accessory;

- Figure 2 is a perspective view, on an enlarged scale, of a safety device for the beater-mixer of Figure 1;

- Figure 3 is a view identical to Figure 1, with the mounting of a beating accessory; and

5 - Figure 4 is a view identical to Figure 1, with the mounting of a mixing accessory.

The handheld beater-mixer shown in Figure 1 comprises a body 2 of generally substantially prismatic shape having a recess portion 3 which delimits a handle 4, and 10 containing an electric drive motor 6 provided with a shaft 8 having an axis XX' and disposed, in normal use with at least one so-called beating accessory such as for example a whisk 10 as shown in Figure 3, in the lower portion 12 of the body 2 extending horizontally.

15 In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, the shaft 8 of the drive motor 6 carries at its front end 14 an endless screw (not shown) which coacts with two helicoidal pinions each turning about an axis YY' perpendicular to the axis XX', and which form with the latter a reducer 16. These 20 two helicoidal pinions are located in the front portion 18 of the body 2 and are connected respectively to two rotatable coupling devices 20 of axis YY', of which only one is visible in Figure 1, which are respectively open facing two openings 22 provided in the lower wall 24 of the

body so as to define two passages 26 opening from the body and adapted for the engagement of two whisks 10 of which only one is shown in Figure 3. Each whisk 10 comprises a cylindrical shaft 28 (Figure 3), with an axis YY', whose 5 upper end is adapted to be fixed in the corresponding coupling device 20. The two whisks 10 can be fixed in coupling devices 20 either side by side or one behind the other.

In this example, in Figure 1, the shaft 8 of the drive 10 motor 6 carries at its rear end 31 another rotatable coupling device 33 forming a drive which is disposed in a cylindrical socket 35 extending horizontally in the rear portion 37 of the body 2. In this embodiment, the socket 35 is open facing an opening 39 provided in the rear wall 15 41 of the body 2 so as to define a passage 43 opening from the body and adapted for the engagement of a mixing accessory turning at high speed such as for example a mixer foot 45 as shown in Figure 4. This mixer foot 45, Figure 4, is adapted to be fixed for example by screwing into the 20 socket 35 and encloses a shaft 47 whose so-called rear end 48, opposite the blades 49 housing a helix (not shown), is adapted to couple with the drive 33.

In Figure 1, 3 and 4, there is shown at 50 a finger piece mounted in the upper wall 52 of the body 2 and

adapted, in a manner known per se, to actuate a switch (not shown) which places the motor in operation and controls its speed of rotation.

The beater-mixer moreover comprises a safety device, 5 designated generally at 55 in Figures 1 to 4, adapted to prevent the simultaneous emplacement of the whisks 10 and of the mixer foot 45, and which, according to the invention, comprises a movable mechanical member 57 adapted to block selectively one or the other of the passages 26 10 and 43 for engagement of the whisks 10 and, respectively, of the mixer foot 45.

In a preferred embodiment shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4, this mechanical so-called safety member 57 is horizontally slidably mounted within the body 2, adjacent the internal 15 surface 24a of the lower wall 24 of the body, and comprises a horizontal strip 59 whose rear portion carries a finger or lug 61, better shown in Figure 2, projecting into the interior of the socket 35 through a clearance opening 63 provided in the sidewall 65 of the socket 35. As shown in 20 Figure 2, in this example, the forward portion of the strap 59 is shaped like a horizontal plate 67 forming a cover whose front edge 68 is hollowed out with two identical notches 70 associated respectively with the two passages 26 for engagement of the whisks and each having a profile

adapted to that of the shaft 28 (Figure 3) of the whisk 10, as well as a diameter slightly greater than the diameter of the shaft 28 of the whisk.

The safety member 57, Figures 1, 3 and 4, is urged by 5 a return spring 72, in this instance a compression spring, which is interposed between the lower portion of the finger 61 of the strip 59 and a vertical wing 74 provided on the external surface of the sidewall 65 of the socket 35, adjacent the bottom of the latter.

10 There is shown at 76 in Figures 1, 3 and 4, ribs formed in the body 2 and bracing with slight play the strip 59 of the safety member 57; these ribs 76 ensure guidance of the strips 57 during its sliding.

In the stopped position of the beater-mixer, in the 15 absence of any accessory, as shown in Figure 1, the safety member 57 occupies a rest position in which the two notches 70 of its cover 67 are aligned with the two openings 22, thereby freeing the two passages 26 for engagement of the whisk, whilst its projecting finger 61 coacts in bearing 20 with the sidewall 55 of the socket 35, under the action of the compression spring 72.

With reference to Figure 3, the safety member 57 occupies a so-called beeping position which corresponds to its rest position in Figure 1 in which the two passages 26

are freed and hence permit the emplacement of the whisks 10, whilst the passage 43 is obstructed by the finger 61 projecting into the socket 35. The shafts 28 of the whisks 10 thus pass each through its respective opening 22, with 5 slight peripheral play, then through the corresponding notch 70 of the cover 67 of the safety member 57, also with slight peripheral play, to become fixed in the corresponding coupling device 20.

In this beating position shown in Figure 3, if the 10 user introduces the mixer foot 45 through the opening 39, the mixer foot 45 can not substantially move the finger 61, except for the peripheral play existing between the shaft 28 of each whisk 10 and the corresponding notch 70 of the cover 67 of the safety member 57, such that the mixer foot 15 45 cannot be completely emplaced in the socket 35; it will be understood that a slight displacement of the finger 61 results in the abutment of the bottom of each notch 70 of the cover 67 against the corresponding shaft 28 of the whisk 10, preventing the complete emplacement of the mixer 20 foot 45 and hence its coupling with the drive 33.

From the beating position of Figure 3, the whisks 10 can be freed, in a manner known per se, by an ejection member, shown at 78 in Figure 3, which is adapted to be actuated by the finger piece 50.

With reference to Figure 4, the safety member 57 occupies a so-called mixing position to which it is brought by sliding in the direction of the arrow F in Figure 1, under the action of the emplacement by screwing of the 5 mixer foot 45, thus giving rise to the longitudinal movement of the finger 61 of the member 57 within the socket 35, against the compression spring 72. At the end of the screwing path of the mixer foot 45, as shown in Figure 4, the shaft 47 of the latter is coupled with the 10 drive 33, and the cover 67 of the safety member 57 closes the two openings 22, thereafter preventing the emplacement of the whisks 10.

From the mixing position of Figure 4, the mixer foot 45 can be simply withdrawn by unscrewing, the safety member 15 57 then returning, under the action of compression spring 72, to its rest position as shown in Figure 1.

As will be seen from the above description, the safety member 57 constitutes a simple mechanical member serving as a selective block which acts directly on the passages 26 and 43 for engagement of the whisks 10 and respectively the 20 mixer foot 45, and this quite independently of any movable member mounted in the apparatus.

CLAIMS

1. Handheld electric beater-mixer adapted to drive at least one so-called beating accessory (10) such as for example a whisk, or a so-called mixing accessory (45) turning at high speed such as for example a mixer foot, comprising a body (2) containing an electric drive motor (6), two rotatable coupling devices (20, 33) which are connected to the shaft (8) of the motor (6) and which are adapted to receive, via respectively two engagement 5 passages (26, 43) opening from the body (2), the beating accessory (10) and respectively the mixing accessory (45) and a safety device (55) adapted to prevent the simultaneous emplacement of the two accessories, respectively for beating (10) and for mixing (45),

15 characterized in that the safety device (55) comprises a movable mechanical member (57) adapted to block selectively one or the other of the two passages (26, 43) for engagement of the beating accessory (10) and the mixing accessory (45).

20

2. Beater-mixer according to claim 1,
characterized in that the mechanical member (57) comprises a portion forming a cover (67) associated with the passage (26) for engagement of the beating accessory

10), and a portion forming a finger (61) associated with the passage (43) for engagement of the mixing accessory (45), this member (57) being movable between a so-called beating position in which its portion forming a cover (67) uncovers the outlet (22) of the passage (26) for engagement 5 of the beating accessory (10) so as to permit the emplacement of this beating accessory, whilst its portion forming a finger (61) projects into the passage (43) for engagement of the mixing accessory (45) so as to prevent 10 the emplacement of the mixing accessory, and a so-called mixing position in which its portion forming a finger (61) is disengaged so as to permit the emplacement of the mixing accessory, whilst its portion forming a cover (67) closes the outlet (22) of the passage (26) for engagement of the 15 beating accessory (10) so as to prevent the emplacement of the beating accessory.

3. Beater-mixer according to claim 2, in which the passage (26) for engagement of the beating accessory (10) opens through the lower wall (24) of the body (2), whilst the passage (43) for engagement of the mixing accessory (45) opens through the rear wall (41) of the body (2), the coupling device (33) for the mixing accessory (45) is disposed in a cylindrical socket (35) extending

horizontally and defining the engagement passage for the mixing accessory, and the beating accessory (10) comprises a shaft (28) of which one end is adapted to couple with the associated coupling device (20),

5 characterized in that the mechanical member (57) is mounted horizontally slidably in the body (2), adjacent the internal surface (24a) of the lower wall (24) of the body (2), in that the portion forming a finger (61) of the member (57) is engaged within the socket (35) through a
10 clearance opening (63) provided in the sidewall (65) of said socket (35) and disengages as a result of the emplacement of the mixing accessory (45), and in that the portion forming a cover (67) of the member (57) comprises at least one notch (70) which is located facing the outlet
15 (22) of the passage (26) for engagement of the beating assembly (10) when the member (57) is in the beating position, and is adapted, in this beating position, to let pass with slight peripheral play the shaft (28) of the beating accessory (10).

20

4. Beater-mixer according to claim 3,
characterized in that guide means (76) are disposed in the body (2) to guide the mechanical member (57) during its sliding.

5. Beater-mixer according to one of claims 2 to 4,
characterized in that the mechanical member (57) is
urged by resilient return means (72) which tend to return
5 it to the beating position.

(12) DEMANDE INTERNATIONALE PUBLIÉE EN VERTU DU TRAITÉ DE COOPÉRATION
EN MATIÈRE DE BREVETS (PCT)(19) Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété
Intellectuelle
Bureau international(43) Date de la publication internationale
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PCT

(10) Numéro de publication internationale
WO 00/78195 A1(51) Classification internationale des brevets⁷: A47J 43/06

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(21) Numéro de la demande internationale:

PCT/FR00/01682

(74) Mandataire: BUSQUETS, Jean-Pierre; 8 rue du Colonel Rémy, F-14052 Caen (FR).

(22) Date de dépôt international: 16 juin 2000 (16.06.2000)

(81) États désignés (national): CN, US.

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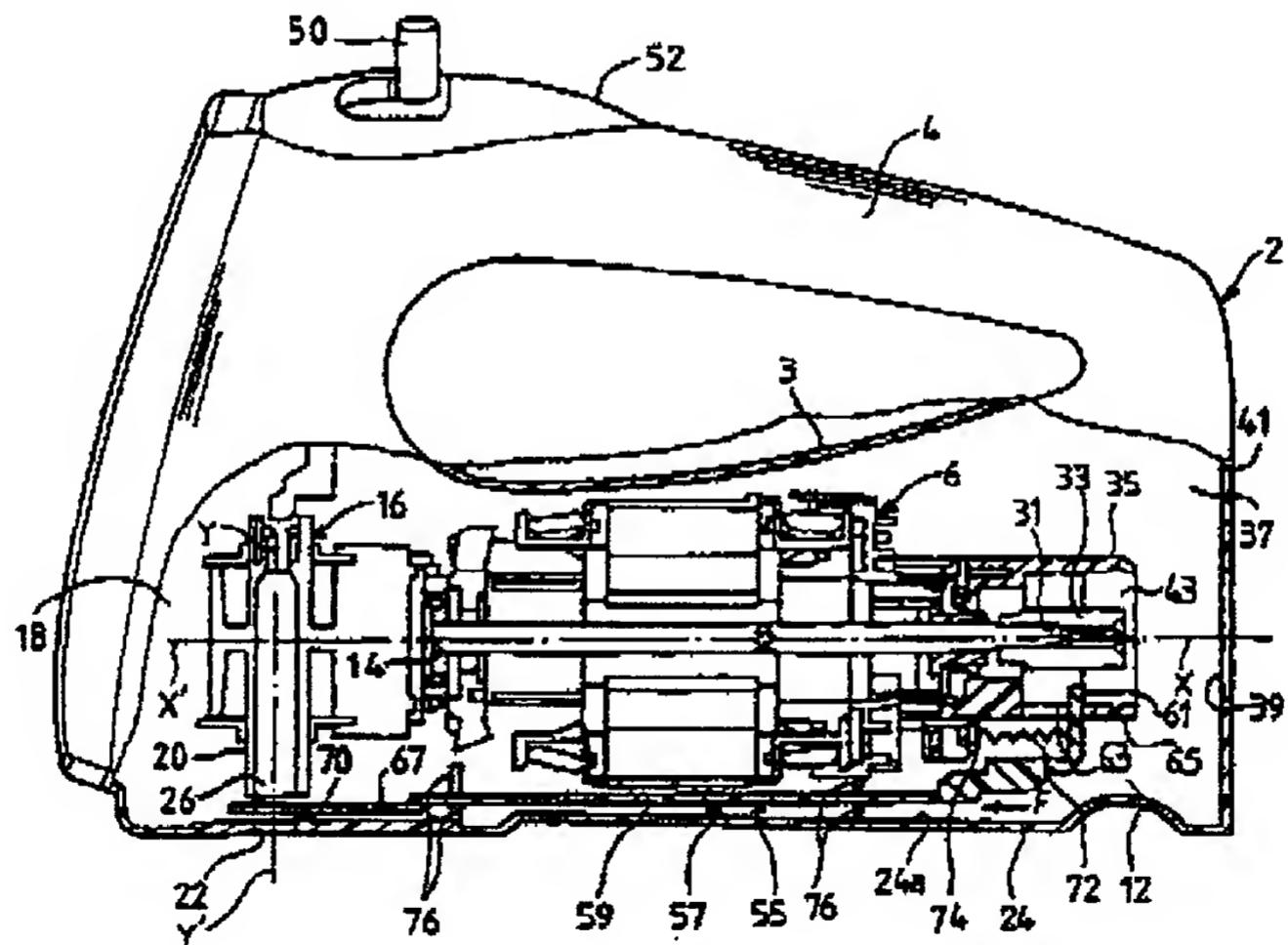
(30) Données relatives à la priorité:
99/07808 17 juin 1999 (17.06.1999) FR

- Avec rapport de recherche internationale.
- Avant l'expiration du délai prévu pour la modification des revendications, sera republiée si des modifications sont reçues.

[Suite sur la page suivante]

(54) Title: ELECTRIC HAND-OPERATED ROTARY BEATER/MIXER COMPRISING A SAFETY DEVICE

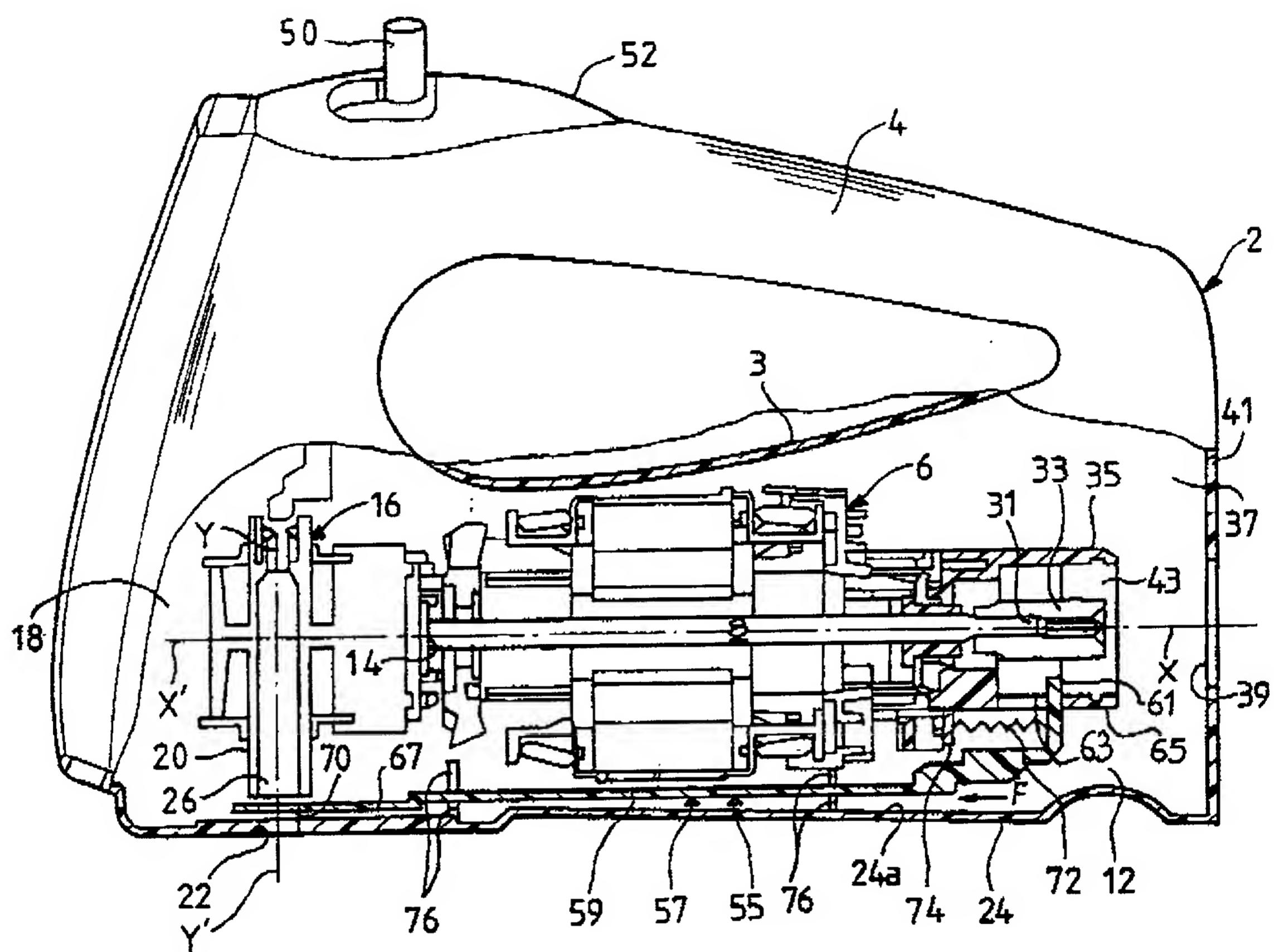
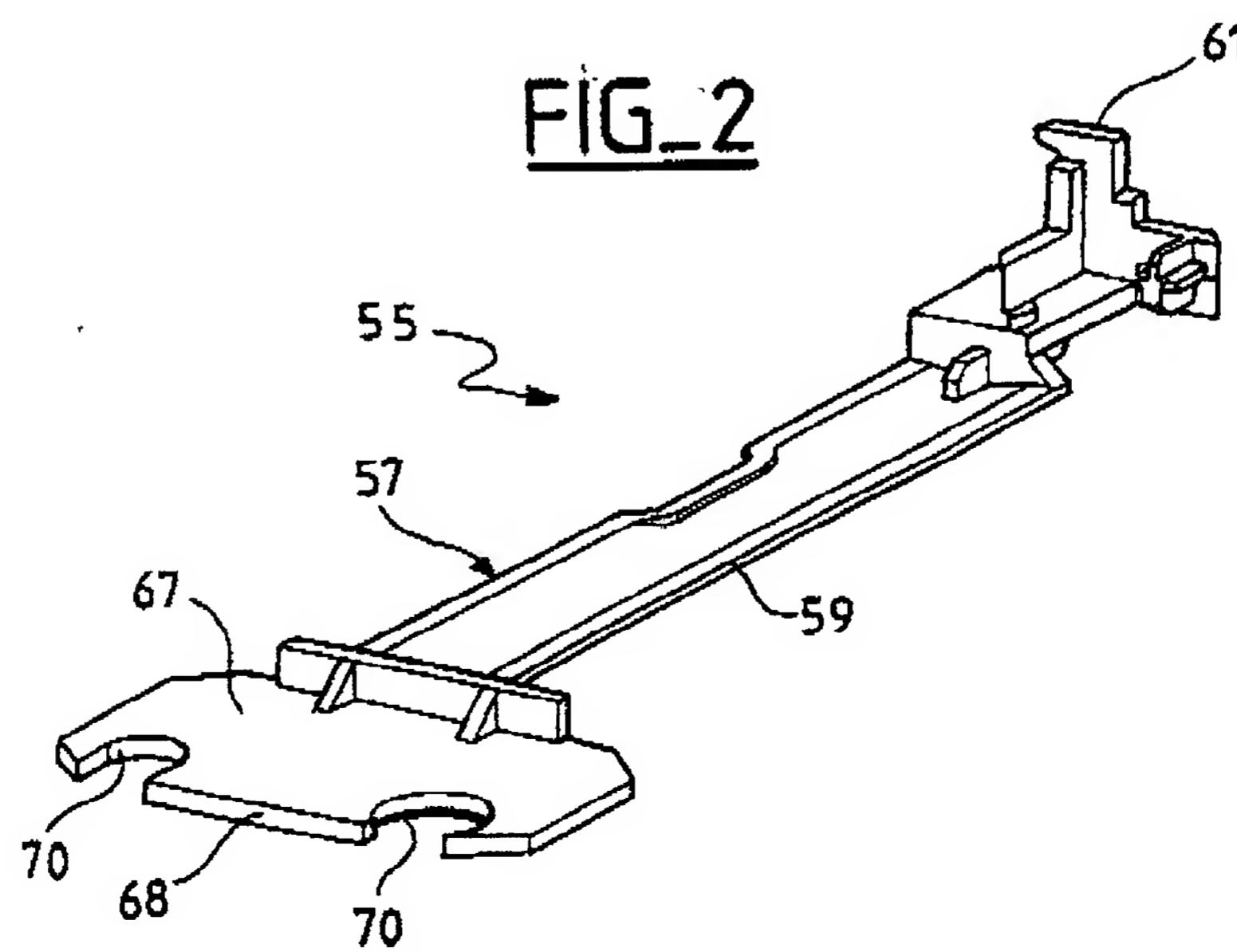
(54) Titre: BATTEUR-MIXEUR ELECTRIQUE A MAIN COMPORTANT UN DISPOSITIF DE SECURITE



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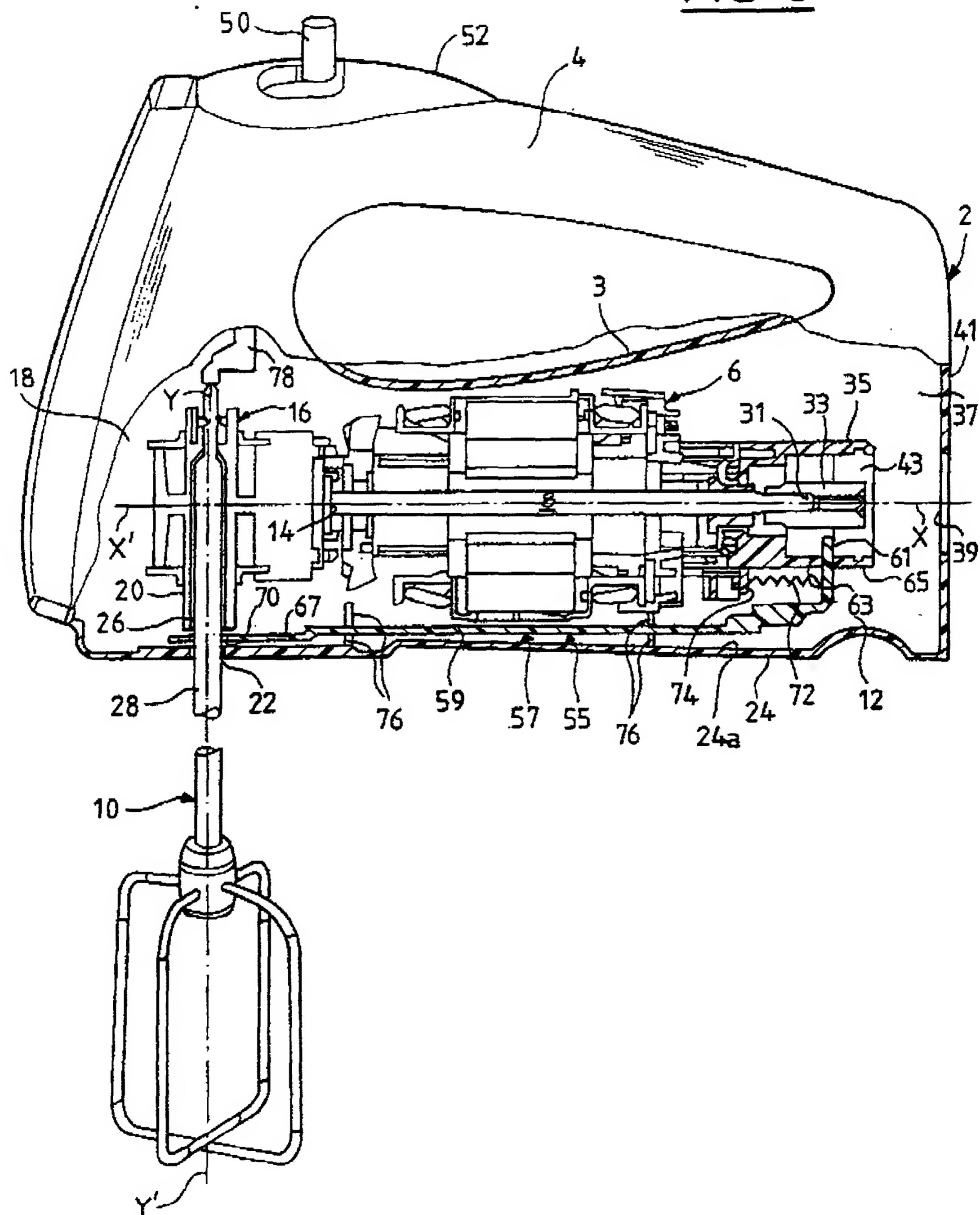
1/3
FIG_1FIG_2

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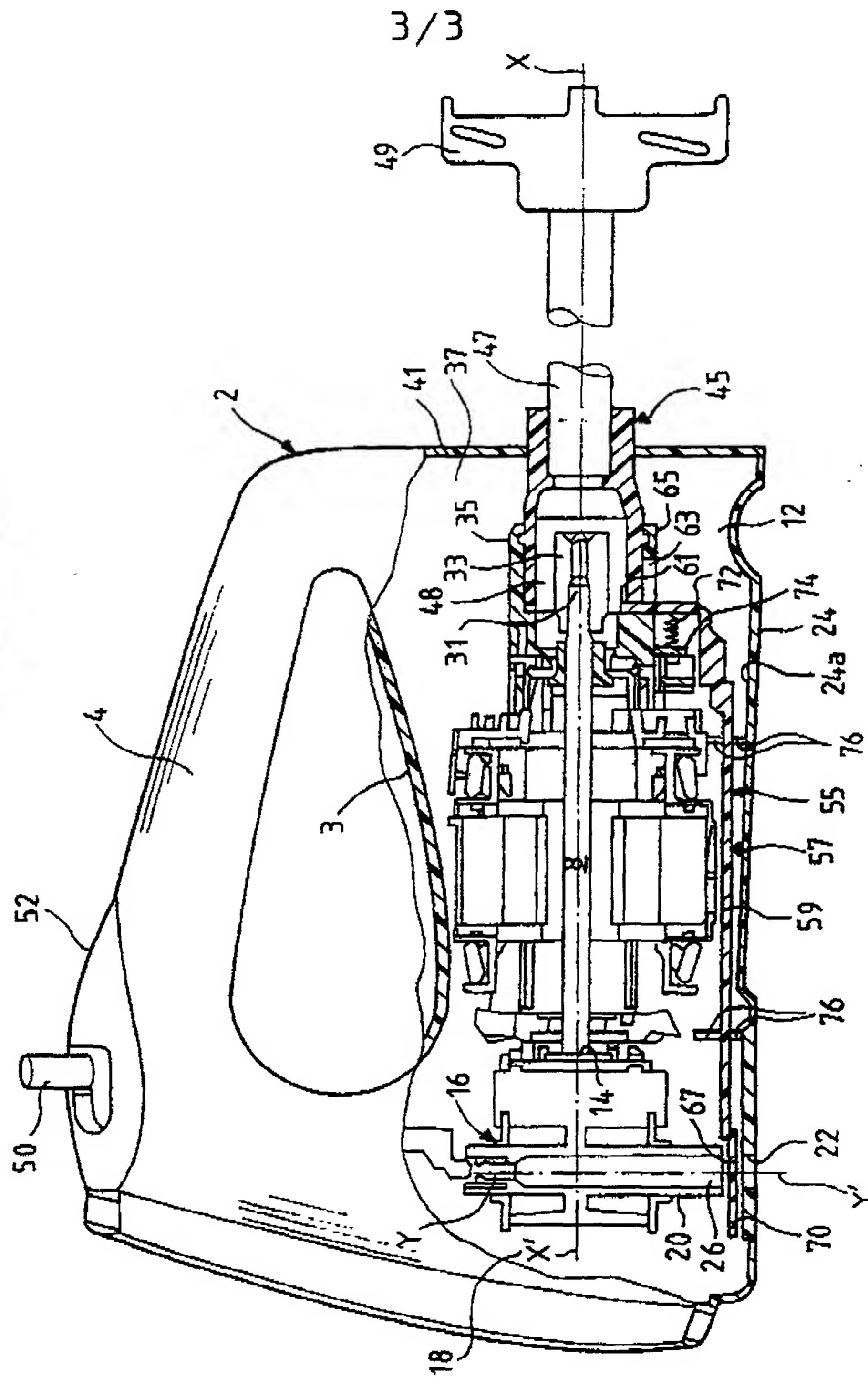
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FIG_3

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FIG_4

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

HANDHELD ELECTRIC BEATER/MIXER HAVING A SAFETY DEVICE

the specification of which: *(check one)*

REGULAR OR DESIGN APPLICATION

[] is attached hereto.

[X] was filed on December 17, 2001, as application Serial No. and was amended on (if applicable).

PCT FILED APPLICATION ENTERING NATIONAL STAGE

[X] was described and claimed in International application PCT/FR00/01682 filed on June 16, 2000, and as amended on (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Priority Claimed
France	99/07808	17 June 1999	yes

(Complete this part only if this is a continuing application.)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status--patented, pending, abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from SAS, GROUPE SEB MOULINEX as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney or agent named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the registered patent attorneys represented by Customer No. 000466 to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, including: Robert J. PATCH, Reg. No. 17,355, Andrew J. PATCH, Reg. No. 32,925, Robert F. HARGEST, Reg. No. 25,590, Benoit CASTEL, Reg. No. 35,041, Eric JENSEN, Reg. No. 37,855, Thomas W. PERKINS, Reg. No. 33,027, and Roland E. LONG, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949,

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745 South 23rd Street,
Arlington, Virginia 22202.



00466

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Address all telephone calls to Young & Thompson at 703/521-2297. Telefax: 703/685-0573.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

1.01 Full name of sole or first inventor: Jean-Yves BEAUDET
(given name, family name)

Date

14/01/02

Citizenship: French

Inventor's signature

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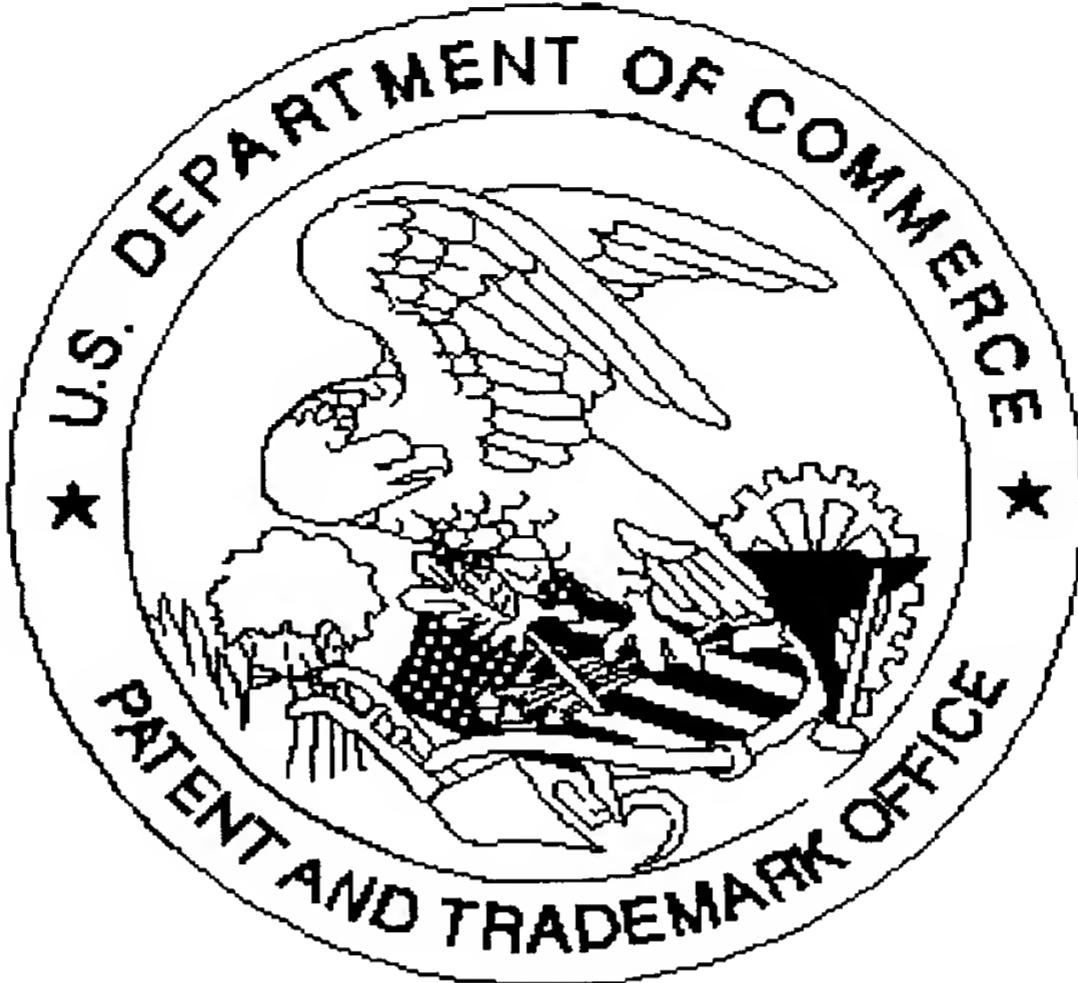
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